

1 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 1 March 1962

**PRESENT: General Taylor (for Item 1), Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gilpatric,
and Mr. McCone**

1. Reconnaissance

Colonel Steakley and Major Moran explained the most important of the reconnaissance operations proposed by the JCS for March.

a. North Vietnam

Preliminary highlights of the results of the operation on the 21st of February were outlined. It was explained that in light of this information the JCS would like to mount four or five such operations a month.

The Group felt that it was perhaps premature to approve operations of such volume at this time. Consequently, it authorized the mounting of the second mission previously approved, along with two more. After these three are completed, then a new look will be taken. Higher authority informed. It was felt that CIA should continue to run the missions and that the possibility of SAC's doing them should be deferred, in light of the limited volume immediately contemplated.

b. Submarine Operation

The Group felt that it was premature to consider this particular proposal at this time. Action was deferred at least until next week.

c. Operations in the General Area of Kamchatka

The proposed anti-missile mission was first discussed. General Taylor asked whether this and other close-in missions proposed would not alert Soviet defenses to an undesirable extent; therefore, would it not be preferable to conduct actual overflights. In this connection, Mr. McCone commented on reports that SU-9's, which would have a capability of destroying the contemplated vehicle have been moving into the area. It was agreed that these reports should be checked further and that no action would be taken on

NSC review(s) completed.

- 2 -

the mission until after that examination, and after the results of another reconnaissance mission currently in progress are available.

Projects CORVAIR, TIGREST, RAMBLER, VALIANT and LARK were next considered. It was noted that the first four of these are directed against the Long-Range Bomber force, which is expected to be deployed to this area between March 15th and April 30th. Mr. Johnson felt that all five should be carefully looked at in connection with the Geneva meeting scheduled to begin on March 14th. It was thus agreed that the aircraft for these five missions would be deployed and that when the necessity for flying them arises, the decision will be referred to the Special Group.

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It was agreed that all the available intelligence would be pulled together as soon as possible and that the Group would consider it next week.

Mr. McCone expressed worry that too many people are privy to proposed operations of this kind.

Thomas A. Parrott

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatric
Mr. McCone
General Taylor